



**ORDO AUGUSTINIANORUM RECOLLECTORUM**

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**GENERALATUS**

**MESSAGE TO THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT FAMILY –**

**SOLIDARITY WITH HAITI**

To all brothers and sisters of the Augustinian Recollect Family:

The whole world is enormously moved by the tremendous and traumatic effects of the recent tragedy of an earthquake of great dimension that has fallen Haiti. It is definitely a natural catastrophe of our common planet, which in theory and by the same causes, could have happened in our respective countries, directly affecting us, our families and friends. Moreover, this terrible earthquake has visited a country, which, as we all know and as the media are emphasizing, is in an alarming situation of poverty and enormous scarceness to develop human life in a dignified way.

I am sure that we are all profoundly concerned and dismayed by the gigantic effects of this tragedy, without being able to contribute more than our heartfelt prayer, which is not little at this moment right after the tragedy. After these first few days of chaos, when many institutions around the world are trying to collaborate in contributing appropriate means of support, we cannot be satisfied with just passively receiving information to know the turn of events and their consequences. Attentive to the signs and possibilities of our time, we feel moved conscientiously and responsibly to respond with prayer and corresponding initiatives and practices within our reach, as so declared by Pope Benedict XVI since the first moments.

With the confidence that inspires me to share with you so many human, Christian and Augustinian feelings, in my behalf and that of the General Council of the Order, I send you this message of condolence and solidarity that we share with all those affected, soliciting from all the members of the Augustinian Recollect Family, aside from fervent prayer to the Lord for the eternal repose of the victims of this tragedy and for the recovery of all those affected, concrete and effective support to help rebuild the country. Each one --- communities, pastoral centers, concrete ministries, fraternities, groups . . . will look into possibilities and practical ways of realizing this good Christian and human endeavor. The Lord knows how to repay with abundance these works of mercy: “Blessed . . .”

With our faith and certainty of the efficacy of our prayer, let us continue asking from the Lord: “Our Father . . .”

- By your infinite mercy, open to all those who have died the gates of eternal life, so that they may rest forever on your paternal lap;

- Look with compassion on the sufferings of all those injured and affected, alleviate their pains and sufferings, and grant them recovery of health; strengthen their faith so that they may always trust in your infinite mercy;
- Grant us the abundance of your power and joy to be able to serve you with greater surrender, helping generously our brothers and sisters who live in anguish and in extreme need, alleviating the effects of natural calamities, aware that what we do for them, we do it for Christ with whom He is identified especially in these moments.

I send you this message from the Philippines during my visit to our communities, a delightful country, rich in history and extraordinary fruits of spirituality and Augustinian Recollect life, a country that has also lived repeated experiences of catastrophic results caused by extreme phenomena of nature, typhoons in particular, though not as worse as the situation to which we are referring now.

From our seminary of Mira-Nila, my fraternal greetings to all of you and hopefully, with our contributions, we may improve the painful conditions of so many families.

Fraternally,

Fr. Javier Guerra Ayala, Prior General